

HHPvisions

Inside this issue...

Message from the Dean2

Jo Morgan named College
Outstanding Alumna2

Department Chair
Updates3

Honor Roll of Donors4

Alumni News5

Elexis Gillette Strikes
Silver Again in Beijing5

Farrell Inducted into
AAKPE6

Hengstman Named
NC's Top APE6

Athletic Training Alumni
Reconnect6

After School Activity
Program6

Military Programs
Join HHP7

Wounded Warriors Project
Featured in News and
Observer7

Jim Decker Serving
as College of HHP
Interim Associate Dean7

Remember Your College
at Holiday Season7

College of Health & Human Performance Alumni and Friends Newsletter Fall 2008

Emeritus & Distinguished Faculty Wall Dedication

Faculty with a combined 554 years of service gathered in the academic wing of Minges Coliseum on November 7, 2008 for the unveiling of the College of Health and Human Performance (HHP) Emeritus & Distinguished Faculty Wall.

The purple carpeted hallway was filled with faculty, family members, and staff who relived old memories and rekindled friendships. The afternoon event was also an opportunity to meet new faces and observe first hand the tremendous growth in the College.

In his welcoming remarks, Dean Glen Gilbert thanked all honorees for their commitment and praised their exceptional dedication. Countless students have been inspired during the long and distinguished careers of these esteemed professors. Their achievements in providing the foundation to build our programs and establishing a legacy of excellent teaching, research, and service continues.

Dr. Jerry McGee, President of Wingate University and HHP alumnus, unveiled the prominently displayed wall that showcases as a permanent tribute to the rich heritage of our College. Dr. McGee generously funded the Emeritus and Distinguished Faculty Wall to honor his professors as well as many of his peers in recognition of significant contributions to their disciplines, our students, and the college. At the ceremony, Dr. McGee was also recognized with the ECU prestigious honor, the Outstanding Alumni Award for 2008.

Dr. Jimmie Grimsley, Faculty Emeritus and member of the "ol' guard" era from the 1960's, commented on each recipient as they were presented with a framed certificate. The wall contains brass name plates for all 55 emeritus and distinguished faculty members along with their years of service.



Dr. Jerry McGee



Seated at Center: Ed Hooks & Earl Smith; First Row: Bill Cain, Karen Hancock, Stephanie Cullipher, daughter of Dr. Ernie Schwarz, Alice Williams, wife of George Williams, Frances Douglas, Judy Baker, Ralph Steele, Al King Second Row: Jonathan Rose, Thomas Johnson, Jimmie Grimsley, Gay Israel, Frank Saunders, husband of Jo Saunders, John Wëlborn, Carol-Ann Tucker, Catherine Bolton, Bill Carson

Message from the Dean



Greetings from all of us in the College of HHP. We are off to another outstanding year with the addition of a number of new very energetic faculty members. ECU official numbers put the institution at 27,703 students. This growth is of course welcome but greater than anticipated and has put a strain on our facilities and faculty. We are very fortunate the new Belk building has provided the college with additional space.

We are also fortunate to have great faculty members. David White is on loan serving as Interim Dean of the College of Technology and Computer Science. Sharon Knight is serving as Acting Chair of Health Education and Promotion and Stacey Altman is Interim Chair of Exercise and Sport Science. Jim Decker is serving as Associate Dean this year. Our sincere thanks to them for serving in these roles.

It was with great pleasure that we recently honored our former faculty members with the dedication of the Emeritus and Distinguished Faculty Wall. This attractive display is part of the HHP Wall of Honor and was made possible by the donation of alumnus Dr. Jerry McGee now President of Wingate University. It was a wonderful turn out by our former mentors and colleagues. Although some were greyer and moving slowly, their wit and sense of humor made it an event to remember. I wish all of you could have seen them together sharing stories and showing their pride for this college. I hope you all will

stop by to review this list of honored former faculty members that contributed so much to the foundation that has become this truly outstanding college.

The College is proud to name Ms. Jo Morgan, Outstanding Alumna for 2008. Jo is a graduate of Health Education & Promotion and is a highly regarded health educator with the Pitt County Department of Health. Jo was a member of our centennial panel this year and will provide comments at our December graduate recognition ceremony.

We are pleased to announce that the Office of Military Programs, comprised of the Department of Aerospace Studies (US Air Force ROTC) and the Department of Military Sciences (US Army ROTC) is now officially part of the College. Their activities will now be included in our newsletter and you will see why we are proud to have them as part of the HHP family.

Our HHP Advancement Council, chaired by Mike Bunting, will be working this year to address scholarships and facility needs. Thanks to Don Edwards for his work as Chair of the Council for the past two years. During this tenure, we have seen growth in student scholarships and celebrated our heritage with HHP centennial activities.

Thank you for your continued interest in ECU and HHP. The state and country and most of you are facing challenging economic times. We pledge to you to continue to provide the best possible education for our students. Your success, energy and support continue to be our greatest assets in advancing the College of Health and Human Performance.

Ken Kaut

Glen G. Gilbert, Ph.D.
Professor & Dean

Jo Morgan Named College Outstanding Alumna

It is with great pride that we honor Ms. Jo Morgan (BS '82; MAEd '88) as our 2008 Outstanding Alumna. Ms. Morgan, an alumna of the Department of Health Education and Promotion (HE&P), marked her 26th anniversary with the Pitt County Health Department this year. In her various roles at the Health Department and in the community, she is widely recognized as a leader in public health education who values collaboration and community involvement. Her service to the community and profession has ranged from being a founding member of Pitt Partners for Health, past president of the NC Society of Public Health Educators (NCSOPHE), Director of Health Education at the Pitt County Health Department, and a member of innumerable community coalitions and committees. Among the awards she has received are the NCSOPHE Outstanding Educator Award, HE&P Outstanding Alumni Award, and Eta Sigma Gamma Honor Award. Jo Morgan has long served as a role model for public health educators and epitomizes effective leadership in public health. We honor Jo Morgan as a consummate professional who has truly made a difference in the health status of our community and state.



Department Chair Updates



Stacey Altman, JD Interim Chair, Department of Exercise and Sport Science

Good things continue to happen in the Department of Exercise and Sport Science (EXSS). We are pleased to report that we have added new faculty and staff members; Allen Adeimy and Eva Price in Physical Education Teacher Education, Rebecca Allen in Exercise and Sport Science, and Patrick Rider in Biomechanics. Joy Coombs-Hahn filled the Administrative Assistant opening left by Jane Moore. While we will always be thankful for the amazing length and quality of service Mrs. Moore delivered, we look forward to continued success due to the qualities and experience Joy Coombs-Hahn, Elaine Hughes and Wendy Beachum bring to the Department.

On a regular basis, Department faculty extend learning beyond the walls of the classroom by working for and with campus and community partners. In addition, our faculty members continue to find ways to be engaged in professional and community service. In terms of professional service and honors, several faculty members serve as editors and editorial board members for journals (including Paul Devita, Peter Farrell, Scott Gordon, Joe Houmard, Tibor Hortobagyi, Matt Mahar, Mark Moore, Darrell Neuffer and Tom Raedeke). Darrell Neuffer delivered the President's Lecture at the annual ACSM conference, and Tom Raedeke served as a dissertation opponent at Orebro University in Sweden.

Of special note, Peter Farrell moved on from his role as Chair of the Department after many great years of service as an administrator. The field and the Department have celebrated his accomplishments and we all look forward to his future contributions as he continues to provide leadership to EXSS and ECU.

While space for teaching and research continues to present challenges, we have made progress. Dean Gilbert, Mr. Cain, Dean Morris, and Ray Branch constantly seek and manage resources such that we are often able to grow.

This year, we re-established the Teacher Behavior Analysis Lab (TBAL) to support the excellent work of the Physical Education Teacher Education faculty. In addition, to facilitating improved instruction, the TBAL will accommodate the research effort of those faculty and graduate students involved with the PETE programs. We hope to have a home this year for the Department faculty with a behavioral science focus.

Finally, the Department will be involved with creating an alumni relations plan this year. This plan is intended to help us develop ways to interact with our alumni more often and in more meaningful ways.



Sharon Knight, PhD Acting Chair, Department of Health Education and Promotion

It is my great privilege to serve as acting chair of the Department for the 2008-2009 academic year during the time that our chair, Dr. David White, serves as Interim Dean for the ECU College of Technology and Computer Science. The Department is thriving as the number of students enrolled in our on campus and on-line degree programs continues to grow. Our 40 faculty members proudly offer four undergraduate and four graduate degrees as well as undergraduate minors in worksite health promotion and environmental health. We collaborate with the Department of Political Science in offering a certificate in security studies and will soon offer a graduate certificate in worksite health promotion. We invite you to learn more about our newest graduate degree: the MS in Athletic Training.

In the past two years we have proudly welcomed a number of new faculty and said goodbye to a few faculty. Retiree and alumna, Dr. Patricia Dunn, continues her legacy of service to the community in her current role as Mayor of Greenville. Dr. Dan Sprau has recently retired from the Environmental Health Sciences program but continues to teach and contribute in other ways to the program. Dr. Max Zarate joined the environmental health division of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Among our new faculty is Dr. Jennifer Cremeens, a community health education professional with expertise in the area of college student substance use. The Environmental Health Sciences degree program welcomed Dr. Tim Kelley, who applies his expertise in environmental health microbiology and chemistry. In the area of School Health Education, Ms. Michelle Wallen, past president of NCAAHPERD, focuses her work in health education pedagogy and literacy development. Graduate program alumna, Ms. Ellen Hanley, teaches school health methods and works with Ms. Wallen on a school health education grant.

Ms. Jo Morgan was recognized as our College of HHP Outstanding Alumni for 2008. In her professional service and role as Director of the Health Education Division of the Pitt County Public Health Center, she epitomizes the professionalism and excellence to which we all aspire. You always have an open invitation to come by and visit us. We moved into the renovated Belk building last spring and would enjoy showing you our new facility.



Joseph Fridgen, PhD Chair, Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies

The Department continues to move forward expanding the faculty and student numbers. A search for a new recreational therapist is underway. We welcomed three new faculty members this fall. Paige Schneider joins us from Michigan State University and expands our teaching and research in the area of commercial recreation and tourism. Both Paige and Dr. Obenour have joined other faculty as Associates with the Center for Sustainable Tourism here on campus. Dr. Cliff Watts, an expert on the relationship between youth development, recreation activity and leadership joined us after working several years at Texas A&M. Ms. Rebecca Riedl is our newest instructor teaching in both majors and managing the RT internship program. Rebecca has degrees from RCLS and left an RT position at Pitt County Memorial Hospital to join our faculty this fall.

It is always a pleasure to report accolades for our faculty and students. Fall semester 2008 outstanding seniors selected by the faculty include: Benjamin Short, representing the Recreation and Park Management major and Marcus Dees representing the Recreational Therapy major. Both of these students will be honored at the fall HHP recognition ceremony held in Minges in December. Dr. Thom Skalko was honored with the President's Citation for his public policy work by the American Therapeutic Recreation Association at the fall conference this September.

At the end of spring semester 2009, I will be stepping down as Chair of the Department. I will graduate with our seniors and new MS students into a new role as faculty member in RCLS. By then I will have been Chair for five and a half years. The time I have spent in the position has slipped away very rapidly. The hallmark events along the way were exciting and the accomplishments of the department through its faculty and students were wonderful. It has been my privilege to have served the students, faculty and professionals here at ECU and across the state. In February, I will have spent 30 years in the academy and if other opportunities are ahead of me, I have to move on to them in the near term. So, I return to the faculty and look forward to working with the College, the University and our Department on new challenges that lie ahead. I want to thank each of you for your support over the years.

HHP Alumni News

Mary Broos ('67 BS Health and Physical Education) retired as Head Athletic Trainer at Guilford College after 30 years. In addition to her training responsibilities she spent 12 years on the Davidson County Board of Education; four years as chairperson.

Moirra Culp ('75 BS Health and Physical Education) is conducting a project for at risk students at Virginia Beach Public Schools.

Laura Driggers ('89 BS Leisure Systems Studies) is the Program Superintendent for the Florence County Parks and Recreation.

Natalie Edwards ('94 BS School Health & '96 MAEd Health Education) was named GEM (Going the Extra Mile) by Betsy Johnson Regional Hospital in 2008. She is the Organizational Development Supervisor and Service Excellence Program Director. Natalie is known for her passion and maintaining strong ties between the hospital and surrounding communities.

Amanda Fuller ('08 MA Health Education and Promotion) accepted the Health Education Coordinator position at Gaston County Health Department.

Addie Miller ('02 BS Exercise and Sport Science) joined the staff at Therapeutic Life Center, a private practice rehabilitation clinic in Greenville. She is a certified strength and conditioning specialist and completed a residency at Pro Sports Physical Therapy of Westchester in Scarsdale, New York. She also received a doctorate in physical therapy from ECU.

Mark Ritter ('92 BS Leisure Systems Studies) began working as Director of Campus Recreation at USC-Upstate in September and was married to Karen Whittaker in July.

Susie Wehring ('88 BS Physical Education & Athletic Training) accepted the Director of Athletic Training Education Program at Georgia Southern University.

Elexis Gillette Strikes Silver in Beijing

Elexis Gillette had his sights set on gold, but had to settle for silver once again. Gillette, a 2007 Graduate of the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies, with a BS in Recreation and Park Management, placed second in the long jump at the Beijing Paralympic Games. The Paralympics are the worldwide sport competition for athletes with disabilities held in conjunction with the Olympic Games. Gillette is visually impaired due to congenital detached retina and glaucoma. Growing up in Raleigh, he was served by the Governor Moorhead School for the Blind and eventually graduated from Athens Drive High School. It was at Athens Drive that he initially discovered his love of track and field. As a senior he was co-captain of the Athens Drive track team. Blind runners are allowed sighted guides in competition. In the long and triple jump he counts off steps until he reaches the jumping board. In 2002 he was the United States Association for Blind Athletes Male Athlete of the Year and two years later the 2004 Raleigh News & Observer Male Athlete of the Year. While at ECU Gillette used Braille and computer augmentation to complete assignments. During his undergraduate days at ECU he trained at Bunting Track and the Student Recreation Center where he was partnered with an ECU student in the PAIRS (Partners Assisting in Recreational Services) program of Campus Recreation and Wellness. The work paid off as Gillette took second place in the long jump at the Athens Paralympics in 2004. He immediately set his sights on gold in 2008. After having been selected to represent the USA in Beijing, he moved to the Paralympic Track Team training site in Chula Vista, California. More determined than ever, Elexis competed in five events in Beijing: the 100 meters, 200 meters, 4 X 100 meter relay, triple jump and his specialty, the long jump. He placed 5th in the triple jump and second in the long jump with a leap of 6.46 meters. Li Duan, of China, took the gold medal in both events. While disappointed to not attain his gold medal, he was happy to medal again especially in light of the stiff competition from the Chinese athletes. "I really was not sure how it was going to go, doing five events and all, but I am very happy to medal again," Gillette said. Gillette cites ECU friends and faculty members as one reason for his continued motivation. "My ECU family kept urging me on through emails, text messages and my internet blog," he said. While he is taking a little time off from competition, Gillette is considering graduate school and making plans for another run for the gold medal in London in 2012. Should he make the team, Gillette will be one of its most seasoned competitors having already represented the USA in Brazil, Canada, The Netherlands, Great Britain, Greece and China. In the meantime he remains the country's top ranked long jumper in the B-1 class, which is exclusively for blind athletes. You can keep in touch with Elexis via his website, www.nostoppinnow.com.



Wounded Warriors Project Featured in the News & Observer

Dr. Carmen Russoniello's work with Marines from Camp Lejeune's Wounded Warrior Barracks was recently featured in the Raleigh News and Observer. Currently about 15 marines receive weekly therapy at the Biofeedback Laboratory located in the Belk building. The therapy combines technology and research-based interventions, methods of controlling anxiety, outburst of anger and other symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. Dr. Russoniello, director of the clinic, comments "There is nothing abnormal about these guys. They are having normal responses to situations they were in, and we're just training them to have better responses." In addition to biofeedback, designed to reduce stress through relaxation, recreation and social interaction, therapists also use activities such as kayaking, wheelchair basketball and group counseling. More information can be found about the clinic at: <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-hhp/rcls/biofeedback/index.cfm>



Jim Decker Serving as College of HHP Interim Associate Dean

Dr. Jim Decker, Associate Professor in the Department of Exercise and Sport Science, has been appointed Interim Associate Dean. This action was the result of Dr. Sharon Knight's assuming the role of Acting Chair of the Department of Health Education and Promotion, due to Dr. David White's agreement to serve as the Acting Dean of the College of Technology and Computer Science. Since joining ECU in 1990 Dr. Decker directed the adapted physical education program. He is co-director of the Development Motor Laboratory, along with Dr. Boni Boswell. Together Drs. Decker and Boswell have overseen the EXSS department's long-standing adapted physical education on-campus practicum. Dr. Decker is a long time adapted sports coach and official having participated in many local, state and international Special Olympics, as well as attending the 1996 Paralympic Games in Atlanta. He has been on the planning committee of ECU Annual Adapted Sports Day which celebrates its 12th edition on November 22, 2008 at the Student Recreation Center. He is the Director of Graduate Studies for the Department of Exercise and Sport Science and serves on several Graduate School committees. Decker was recognized for these and other activities with the Chancellor's Award for Excellence (Service) in 2007.



Dr. Jim Decker

Remember Your College at Holiday Season

As the holiday season approaches and the calendar year draws to a close, now is the time to look at charities and organizations that have made a significant impact on our lives. Some people analyze what funds they may have available to ease their tax burden. Most reflect on the things that have left a lasting impression on their lives.

By taking time now to consider what to give, when to give and how to give, you can assure that your gift has maximum impact on your academic unit. No matter your income level, if you itemize, you can almost always lower your income taxes through charitable giving. Methods of giving include cash, stocks and other securities, life insurance and real estate.

If you have owned your gift of stock for over one year you may deduct the full fair market value of the stock as a charitable contribution, which will bypass all capital gains taxes.

Due to the limitations of state allocations, your charitable contributions are vital to the enhancement of the academic programming, facilities, technology, and student scholarships. If you have any questions regarding end-of-year contributions, please call Duane Grooms, Major Gifts Officer, at 252-328-4662. Remember that your contributions must be postmarked by December 31, 2008 to be counted in this calendar year. Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

Military Programs Join HHP

Effective fall semester 2008, ECU Air Force and Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) have become part of the College of HHP. These programs have a long and proud history at ECU. The Air Force unit was established in 1948 while the Army unit began operation in 1983. Combined, both programs have commissioned over 1000 officers.

The cadets in ROTC step up not only to the challenges of college but also to the unique challenges that ROTC offers. They have accepted the additional training commitments that ROTC requires and are learning what it takes to be an effective leader and manager in the US military.

The programs are very dynamic. It focuses on leadership, military history and military customs and courtesies along with a healthy dose of physical fitness. Both programs offer cadets the ability to engage in many additional activities. These include extracurricular activities such as Color Guard and intramural sports, where ROTC students are usually very successful. Additionally students can participate in service-specific Professional Development Training such as Airborne training and summer internship programs on a military base.

ROTC at ECU has experienced a long history of commissioning quality officers, men and women of integrity who are completely dedicated to serving their country. This is a proud heritage that continues today. We welcome them to HHP.

News about you...

Alumni are the most important feature in HHP Visions and we want to hear from you. If you have news to share, please send it and we'll use it in the Alumni News section. Drop us a note with your comments & suggestions. Please include a recent photograph. Don't be shy! Let us and your classmates know what you're up to these days!

Alumni

Name (first/maiden/current last name)

Class Year/Major

Spouse's name (first/maiden/current last name)

Class Year/Major

Street

Phone (Area Code)

E-Mail

City/State/Zip Code

Current Endeavors (attach additional sheets as necessary)

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